

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Fiscal Year 2013 Early Childhood Education Facilities Improvement Grant

Request for Applications Release Date: August 1, 2013

Grant Application Submission Deadline: August 19, 2013

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), formerly known as the State Education Office (SEO), is a high-performing, transparent agency that sets proactive policies, exercises vigilant oversight, and directs resources that guarantee residents educated in the District of Columbia are among the highest performers in the nation; fully prepared for successful postsecondary learning and employment in the creative economy. The OSSE launched its official name change on June 12, 2007, and was created by the District of Columbia Public Education Reform Act of 2007 (DC Act 17-38). As the State Education Agency for DC, the OSSE sets statewide policies, provides resources and support, and exercises accountability for ALL public education in DC.

OSSE provides leadership and coordination to ensure that all District of Columbia children, from birth to kindergarten entrance, have access to high quality early childhood development programs and are well prepared for school. OSSE works to develop an effective early childhood education system by implementing high standards for programs and professionals, creating supports to meet standards, adhering to rigorous accountability measures, engaging community stakeholders and securing strong financial supports. To this end, government funding opportunities, such as the *Facility Improvement Grant- Early Childhood Education*, intends to promote improving the quality of child care service throughout the District.

Request for Applications: This quality improvement program is designed to help individual child development home providers, un-awarded or first-time community-based organizations (CBOs) and family child care providers understand the factors that determine quality and strengthen those elements within their settings. Support of this magnitude is often requested and such requests demonstrate a need for improved and enhanced facilities within the child care community. This NOFA is for facility improvements and will consider applications that cover the following categories:

- Expansion;
- New development and pre-development; and
- Renovation, repair, and move-in.

Eligibility for Awards:

An organization/entity meeting one of the following criteria is eligible to apply for the Pre-K Facility Improvement Grant Funds under this Request for Applications.

- Child Care Home providers
 - Must be licensed through OSSE
 - Serving three (3) or more Pre-K aged children
- Organizations with a child care center
 - Must have a licensed classroom that serves Pre-K aged children
 - First time applicants OR
 - Organizations that have never been awarded a Pre-K Assistance Grant nor a Pre-K Incentive Classroom Grant
- Providers that are subsidy recipients are eligible to apply if they are in compliance with all mandated certifications and regulations as stipulated in their provider agreement(s)
 - Must have a licensed classroom that serves Pre-K aged children
- **Individuals are not eligible to apply.**

Each applicant should provide evidence to show that it has resources and management procedures sufficient to implement the proposed project, as well as exercise project accountability. Please note that entities with licensing infractions are not eligible to apply.

Available Funding for Awards: Funding for the Early Childhood Education Facilities Improvement Grant is made available through federal funding provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), as well as the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of the Child, the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and the District of Columbia local appropriations. This Request for Applications (RFA) does not commit OSSE to make an award.

Important Dates:

The Request for Applications (RFA) will be available on **August 1, 2013**. Applications may be obtained from the Office of Partnerships and Grant Services website, Funding Alert link @ <http://opgs.dc.gov/page/funding-alert> or the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) website, <http://osse.dc.gov/>. Applications may also be obtained by sending an email to OSSE.CompetitiveGrants@dc.gov .

The **deadline for application submission is August 19, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. EST**. Please be advised that applications must be submitted electronically. Parties interested in applying for this RFA are **strongly recommended** to attend the Pre-Application Conference that will be held on **August 13, 2013**, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. EST at 810 First Street, NE, 9th Floor- Conference Room 9014, Washington, DC 20002. Interested parties planning to attend the Pre- Application Conference are requested to RSVP via e-mail to OSSE.CompetitiveGrants@dc.gov by **COB August 12, 2013**.